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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2010

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our father God, as our pilgrim feet tread unknown paths, each day we receive revelations of Your wonderful care. Bless our Senators with the awareness of Your presence. Open their eyes to the things that threaten our democracy and give them the wisdom to guard our freedom. Remind them that beyond the appraisal of humanity resides the searching light of Your judgment. Lord, widen their sympathies, expand their understanding, override their mistakes until Your will is done on Earth even as it is done in heaven.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 19, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 15 years ago today, 168 Americans died in a despicable act in a Federal building in Oklahoma City.

I therefore ask the President of the Senate to declare a moment of silence in memory of those who were there that day and many other victims and survivors of terrorism at home and abroad.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, a moment of silence will be observed for any and all victims of terrorism, at home and abroad.

(Moment of silence.)

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Thank you.

The majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m. today, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time. Following the closing of morning business, the Senate will turn to executive session to debate the nomination of Lael Brainard to be Under Secretary of the Treasury. At 5 p.m. today, there will be a cloture vote on that nomination.

Last week, I filed cloture on five nominations. It is my hope we will be able to work out time agreements on each of these nominations. If we are unable to do so, we will be in session around the clock until we have votes on all these nominations, with speeches and votes taking place during that time. Upon disposition of the nominations, we will turn to the legislation to reform Wall Street.

FINANCIAL REFORM

Holding these huge banks accountable for the enormous economic crisis of recent years is about more than dollars and cents. It is about fairness and justice. It is also about learning lessons from the mistakes of the past so we are not bound to repeat them.

Those who cared only to boost their own holdings and accounts must be held accountable. To those who gamed the system, the game is over. Wall Street's ability to recklessly risk a family's future must be a thing of the past. Those who dealt in deception and benefited from the cover of darkness

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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